

FAULT-TOLERANT DISTRIBUTED SYSTEM FOR COLLABORATIVE COMPUTING

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A fault-tolerant distributed collaborative computer system is provided that comprises a plurality of server computers interconnected via a high-speed link. By replicating the conference information on more than one server computer, the single point of failure limitation is eliminated. In fact, if a server hosting or participating in a conference malfunctions, the failure is detected by other server computers and the client computer is able to reconnect to the conference through a new server computer. In addition, the state of processes executed by the server computers is periodically replicated, so that when failure of a process is detected a new processes can be spawned and the replicated state information loaded onto the new process, allowing the on-line conference to continue.